

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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FORM**

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	10/666,471	RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER OCT 11 2006
Filing Date	September 19, 2003	
First Named Inventor	Pritchard et al.	
Art Unit	1761	
Examiner Name	Steven L. Weinstein	
Attorney Docket Number	AFP-PT009.1	

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks		
OFFICIAL FACSIMILE		
4 PAGES SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO 571-273-8300. PLEASE IMMEDIATELY DELIVER TO EXAMINER STEVEN L. WEINSTEIN , GROUP ART UNIT 1761.		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm Name	VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.	
Signature		
Printed name	Ryan W. O'Donnell	
Date	October 11, 2006	Reg. No. 53,401

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via Facsimile (571-273-8300) addressed to: Examiner Steven L. Weinstein, Group Art Unit 1761, on the date shown below:

Signature	
Typed or printed name	Ryan W. O'Donnell
Date	October 11, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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OCT 11 2006

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Pritchard et al.

Application No.: 10/666,471

Confirmation No.: 8870

Filed: September 19, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PRODUCING FUSED TUBE ON BAG AND
BAG PRODUCED THEREBY

Group: 1761

Examiner: Steven L. Weinstein

Our File: AFP-PT009.1

Date: October 11, 2006

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being timely filed in response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2006.

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner has taken the position that the pending claims are drawn to the following distinct inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: claims 1-36 and 47-67, drawn to an apparatus and method for attaching a tube to a bag, classified in class 156, subclass 556;